

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section in paragraphs 28 through 41 with the following amended section:

[0028] It is one object of the present invention to solve all or at least one of the problems mentioned above.

[0029] It is another object of the present invention to reduce the ~~the~~ problems associated with transmitting image data.

[0030] Furthermore, it is still another object of the present invention to transmit an image without interfering with the instantaneous response of the image pickup means.

[0031] In accordance with these objects, one preferred embodiment of the present invention is directed to ~~a communication device connected to a image pickup device for photographing a subject. The communication device comprises intake means for taking in an image from the image pickup device, communication means for transmitting the pickup image taken with the intake means to a transmission destination in communication therewith, and control means for starting the operation of the communication means in response to the image pickup operation. a communication device connected to an image pickup unit for photographing a subject. The device includes: (1) an input unit adapted to input images from the image pickup unit; (2) a communicative unit adapted to transmit the pickup images inputted by the input unit to a transmission destination in communication therewith; and (3) a control unit adapted to start an operation of the communicative unit in response to the image pickup operation of the image pickup unit. The control unit controls the communicative unit so as to make a break in communication with the transmission~~

destination after a lapse of a predetermined time period from the time when the transmission of the pickup image is completed. The lapse of the predetermined time period can be arbitrarily set by a user, and setting of the lapse of the predetermined time period is performed by selecting from among plural modes displayed on a display unit.

[0032] Still further, it is an object of the present invention to provide a communication device that provides communication of an image anywhere. an image pickup unit having a communicative function to transmit pickup images obtained by picking up images of a subject. The unit includes a manipulative unit adapted to instruct a predetermined operation and a control unit adapted to start the image pickup operation and an operation of the communicative function on the basis of the instruction of a predetermined operation by the manipulative unit. The control unit controls execution of the communicative function so as to make a break in communication with a transmission destination after a lapse of given time a predetermined time period from the time when the transmission of the pickup image is completed. The lapse of the predetermined time period can be arbitrarily set by a user, and setting of the lapse of the predetermined time period is performed by selecting from among plural modes displayed on a display unit.

[0033] Under this object, according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the communication means is a radio transmitter:

[0034] Still further, it is another object of the present invention to enhance the availability and economics of the communication means.

[0035] Under this object, according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the control means controls the communication means to interrupt

~~communication with a communication destination after a given amount of time after the completion of the transmission of the pickup image.~~

[0036] Furthermore, it is yet another object of the present invention to make the communication device appropriately cope with the communication state of another communication means.

[0037] Under this object, according to yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a means for storing the pickup images obtained from the image pickup means is also provided, and the communication means includes detection means for detecting the state of communication with the transmission destination, and the control means stores the pickup image once into the means for storing images on the basis of the result detected by the detective means.

[0038] Furthermore, where, based on the detected result by the detective means, communication is not possible, the control means stores the pickup image once into the means for storing images, and the pickup image stored in the means for storing images is transmitted by the communication means when communication is possible.

[0039] Furthermore, the control means controls the detective means and the operation based on the detected result in the detective means in parallel with the ordinary operation of the device. another aspect of the present invention is a storage medium in which a processing step for transmitting pickup images obtained by photographing a subject to a specified transmission destination is stored so as to be readable by a computer. The processing step includes a step of starting an image pickup operation of picking up the image of the subject and a communicating operation with the transmission destination on

the basis of instructions of a predetermined operation given from a user to transmit the pickup images obtained by the image pickup operation to the transmission destination. The processing step further includes a step of making a break in communication with the transmission destination after a lapse of a predetermined time period from the time when the transmission of the pickup image is completed. The lapse of the predetermined time period can be arbitrarily set by the user, and setting of the lapse of the predetermined time period is performed by selecting from among plural modes displayed on a display unit.

[0040] It is yet another object of the present invention to provide ~~an image pickup device or a communication method having the novel functions of the present intention or, alternatively, a storage medium for realizing the novel functions of such a device or method with a computer~~. a communication method for communicating photographic images from an image pickup unit for picking up images of a subject to a transmission destination. The method includes: (1) an input step of inputting a photographed image; (2) a communicative step of transmitting the photographic image inputted in the input step to the transmission destination in communication therewith; and (3) a control step of starting execution of the communicative step in response to the image pickup operation of the image pickup unit. The control step includes controlling execution of the communicative step so as to make a break in communication with the transmission destination after a lapse of a predetermined time period from the time when the transmission of the photographic image is completed. The lapse of the predetermined time period can be arbitrarily set by a user, and setting of the lapse of the predetermined time period is performed by selecting from among plural modes displayed on a display unit.

[0041] The other objects and characteristics of the present invention will be apparent from the description of the following embodiments and drawings.